

PIMA COUNTY COMMISSION ON TRIAL COURT APPOINTMENTS

MINUTES

August 6, 2020

PRESENT via ZOOM: Justice Andrew Gould, Chair; Sherry Downer; Neal Eckel; Michael Hennessy; Marian Hill; Julie Katsel; Walter Nash; Richard Schaefer; John Smith and Nanette Warner

ABSENT: John Barry and Cassia Lundin

Justice Andrew Gould called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Introductions

Justice Gould welcomed the public present and new attorney member John Smith.

Public Comment

Justice Gould asked for public comments on the applicants. He reminded the speakers that they would be limited to two minutes each.

Richard Gordon spoke on behalf of Gary Cohen.

Richard Davis spoke on behalf of Gary Cohen.

Alan Goodwin spoke on behalf of Victoria Otto.

Paula Alleman Hannah spoke on behalf of Kimberly Harris Ortiz.

Due to connectivity issues the Commission members had to disconnect and a new zoom meeting was created.

The Commission connected to the new meeting at 9:07 a.m.

Disqualifications and Disclosures

Justice Gould asked to start with any disqualifications and disclosures.

John Smith disclosed that he previously had cases against the law firm where Gary Cohen is employed, and he has met with Mr. Cohen in the past. He also disclosed that he went to elementary school with speaker Paula Alleman Hanna but hasn't seen her in over 30 years.

Approval of Minutes

Justice Gould asked if any member wished to submit changes or additions to the draft minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting. It was moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed 8-0-2 with Justice Gould and John Smith abstaining.

Due Diligence Reports

Commission members took turns to discuss the due diligence reports for Victoria A. Otto,

Jeffrey L. Sklar, Gary J. Cohen, Nanette C. Morrow and Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz. The Commission agreed to discuss the rest of the reports after lunch.

Justice Gould called on speaker Paula Alleman Hannah for further comments and questions regarding Kimberly Harris Ortiz.

Candidate Interviews

From 10:01 a.m. to 12:11 a.m. the Commission interviewed Victoria A. Otto, Jeffrey L. Sklar, Gary J. Cohen, Nanette C. Morrow and Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 12:12 p.m.

Justice Gould called the meeting back to order at 1:18 p.m.

Due Diligence Reports

Commission members took turns to discuss the due diligence reports for Justin D. Castillo, Efthymios S. Katsarelis, T. Ken Sanders and Laurie B. San Angelo.

Candidate Interviews

From 1:53 p.m. to 2:14 p.m. the Commission interviewed Justin D. Castillo.

A motion to go to executive session was made at 2:14 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to public session at 2:30 p.m.

Break at 2:30 p.m.

From 2:35 p.m. to 3:54 p.m. the Commission interviewed Efthymios S. Katsarelis, T. Ken Sanders and Laurie B. San Angelo.

Discussion of Applicants and Interviews and Selection of Nominees

Justice Gould explained that he would read the names of each applicant for a straw vote to discuss the candidates. The candidates that received majority votes will be discussed. The results of the votes were the following:

Victoria A. Otto- 7
Jeffrey L. Sklar- 6
Gary J. Cohen- 9
Nanette C. Morrow- 3
Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz- 8
Justin D. Castillo- 7
Efthymios S. Katsarelis- 0
T. Ken Sanders- 9
Laurie B. San Angelo- 7

The Commission took turns discussing each applicant that received majority of votes in the order of the interviews.

After discussion of each candidate, Justice Gould suggested that a non-binding straw vote would be helpful to determine a potential nomination list. The results of the straw vote were:

Victoria A. Otto- 0
Jeffrey L. Sklar- 6
Gary J. Cohen- 9
Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz- 9
Justin D. Castillo- 4
T. Ken Sanders- 9
Laurie B. San Angelo- 7

Nanette Warner moved to add Jeffrey L. Sklar, Gary J. Cohen, Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz, T. Ken Sanders and Laurie B. San Angelo to the list of nominees to be sent to the Governor. The motion was second and passed by a vote of 8-1-1 with Justice Gould abstaining.

The tentative list consisting of **Jeffrey L. Sklar, Gary J. Cohen, Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz, T. Ken Sanders and Laurie B. San Angelo** was adopted as the final nomination list for submission to Governor Ducey.

Adjournment

Justice Gould thank the Commission members for their service.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.